

Expeditionary Training Center

# TRAINING

JOURNAL

Winter 2005

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FOCUSED DOWN RANGE







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# ETC FOCUSES ON NEW TECHNIQUES, WAYS TO TRAIN BETTER

In the Global War on Terrorism, we are facing an enemy that is resourceful, tenacious and adaptive. This enemy studies patterns, and this enemy uses available resources and blends them with cheap technologies in an attempt to defeat us. This enemy – after attacking – attempts to blend into the surroundings and this enemy will go to great lengths to spread fear and intimidate. This enemy acts randomly, attempting to drain the will of the people of his society, because this is an enemy who does not care about innocent victims who may be caught in the crossfire. Because this enemy wants to kill and wound our soldiers at a time and place of his choosing, without caring who gets in the way, this enemy requires us – as soldiers – to always be on guard and to be better trained than we have ever been before.

In training and protecting our force – and finding every possible way to give our soldiers an advantage over this enemy – the 7th Army Training Command and the Expeditionary Training Center continues to search for new techniques and ways to train so that our soldiers are better prepared for the battlefield.

Recently we completed a program of instruction we are calling SAMMC – the Small Arms Master Marksman Course – that will complement a new



training package – the Convoy Life Fire Exercise (CLFX) – which we think will better prepare our soldiers and leaders for combat eventualities. I thought it appropriate to let all of you know these tools are now available to our soldiers and units.

The SAMMC is like a “Master Gunner” course... except we are training the graduate to better train soldiers (not crews) to improve their individual

weapon capabilities. While all units know how to conduct qualification ranges (and we will always need “qualified” marksmen), this war requires *all* soldiers to know how to handle their weapons in unique situations. Special skills – like reflexive fire techniques, close quarter marksmanship, methods of urban engagements and under difficult night conditions – are required by *all* soldiers on today’s battlefield. This course will train key NCOs to provide those skills...for all types of units. As we graduate Master Marksmen, each battalion will have a small arms expert who will be the Battalion Commander’s (and eventually the Company Commander’s) advisor and key trainer for the kind of skills required by soldiers of all job backgrounds – Combat, Combat Support, Combat Service Support – that will better prepare them for combat.

In addition to the SAMMC, we recently developed a training program – consisting of a pamphlet and two DVDs – to show our soldiers and our leaders

“what right looks like” as they prepare to conduct combat convoy operations. Data shows that over half of the soldier combat deaths and soldiers wounded in action while in Iraq, occur during convoy operations. But many of our leaders and convoy commanders are not as prepared as they should be for these kinds of operations. We *must* turn that around.

The Convoy Life Fire Program (CLFP) incorporates lessons learned from deployed units and the observations from our Observer/Controllers, and is unique in its design. The CLFP is outlined in a cargo-pocket sized pamphlet, and it is complemented by two DVDs (one showing leaders how to prepare for a convoy and the actual convoy qualification program, the other showing the duties of observer controllers in executing any rigorous training event). This package provides information for junior leaders as they prepare convoy training programs... much like we have done for years while preparing our tank and Bradley commanders for combat qualification.

Look for these new tools as you train your soldiers and junior leaders, and know that the 7th ATC and the Expeditionary Training Center will remain at the forefront of providing tools to ensure our soldiers are ready for the demands of combat operations in this very tough environment.

Train Hard... Train to Win!

Mark P. Hertling

Mark P. Hertling  
Brigadier General, U.S. Army  
Commanding

### 7th Army Training Command/Expeditionary Training Center Training Journal

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*During Soldier for a Day, Annette Crerend fires the Viper Engagement System and hits the target at CMTC, Hohenfels, Germany. With support of the Commander, Operations Group, Soldier for a Day will be an annual event at Hohenfels. The goal is to provide spouses of Soldiers a better understanding of what they go through. An obstacle course was built at the Hohenfels Training Area specifically for this training and will remain up for the annual event.*

Photo by Spec. Allaina Parton, Vipers, CMTC.





212th Military Police Company Soldiers move under fire during cordon and search training at Hohenfels Training Area Dec. 8, 2004.

Photo by Karl Weisel, 417th Base Support Battalion public affairs office, Kitzingen, Germany





<<< Col. Victor Lebedovych, general surgeon, 212th Mobile Surgical Hospital (MASH), assists Capt. Booker King, surgeon, 212th MASH. As part of the MASH unit's "train as we fight" field training objective, surgeons performed live surgeries during the field training exercise at Speichersdorf, Germany.

212th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital

## ONLY 2 YEARS 2 LIVE

While the Army's last Mobile Army Surgical Hospital may have less than two years to live; with the support of the Expeditionary Training Command's Directorate of Training and Observer/Controllers, it continues to train in Germany - sharpening skills to save other lives.

In its continuous quest for excellence, the 212th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital deployed to a German Training Area in Speichersdorf, Germany, to conduct realistic training and External Evaluations (EXEVAL), Oct. 13 as a part of the V Corps unit certification process.

The MASH unit arrived after a 12-hour convoy from their home station, in Miesau, Germany.

"The distance we came is similar to the distance the unit convoyed while deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom last year," said Lt. Col. David Bitterman, commander, 212th MASH. "We are training our Soldiers to move at these distances during peacetime to better prepare them in war.

"We moved 36 vehicles in just under 12-hours, and the key to our success was that everyone is licensed as military drivers -- enlisted Soldiers and officers. Six of our vehicles were driven by officers," Bitterman said.

Story and Photos by  
Mindy Anderson

After a successful convoy to Speichersdorf, the "Last MASH Standing," focused on simulated patient play/tactical scenarios to include hospital support coordination, defense of unit area, providing emergency medical services, performing live surgical services, and providing nursing services.

"Soldier morale is up because they're getting to do Soldier things and they love it," said Lt. Col Ann Sammartino, chief nurse, 212th MASH. "All Soldiers know they have Soldier skills, but they know they have their primary jobs as well."

**"If we were needed to deploy tomorrow, we'd be ready."**

-Lt. Col Ann Sammartino, chief nurse

"We've asked a lot of them, working 24/7 and they have performed at the highest of standards; we have some well-rounded Soldiers out here. As a matter of fact, the 30th Medical Brigade commander said if we were needed to deploy tomorrow, we'd be ready," she said.

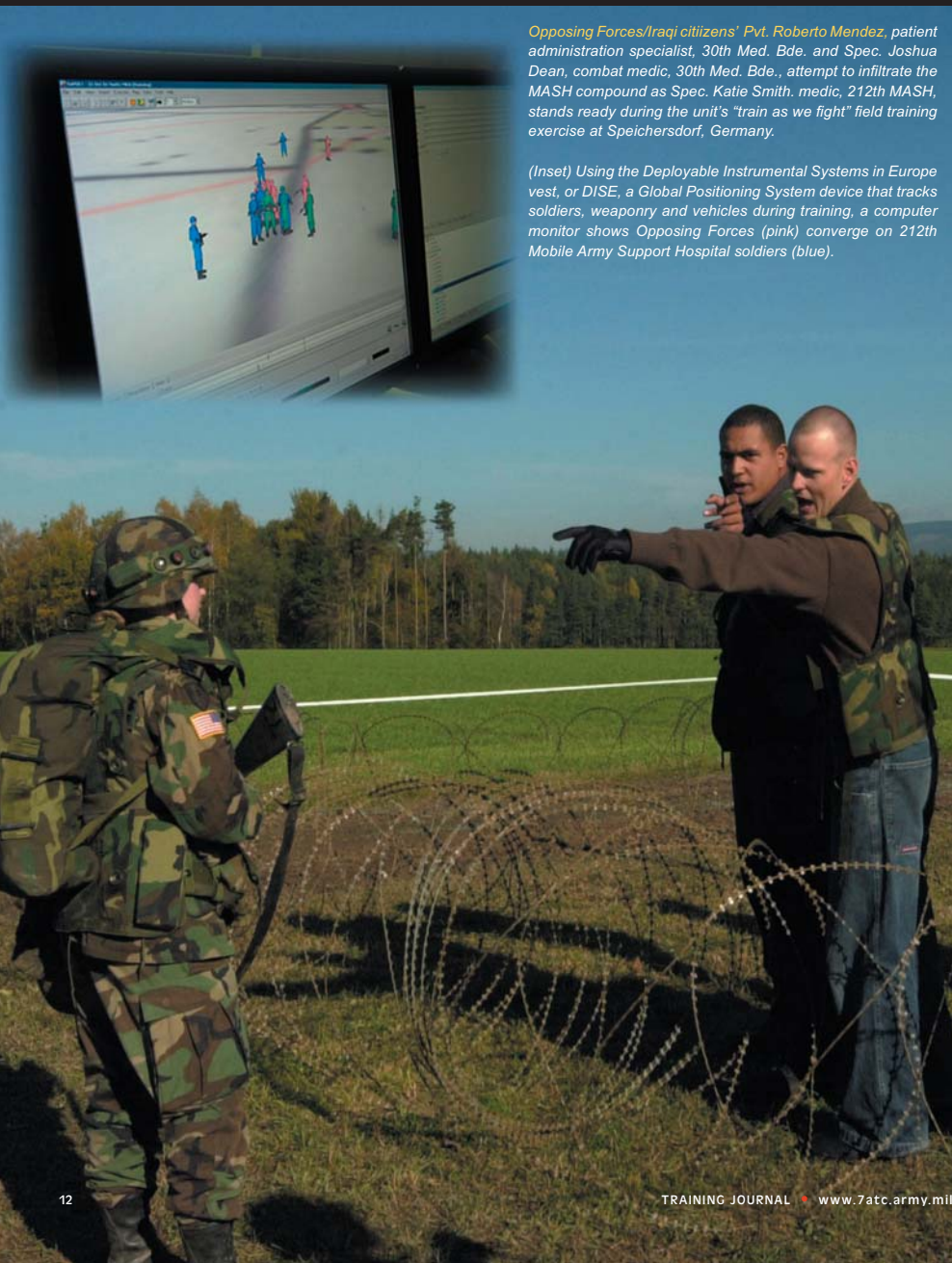
The MASH unit train as they fight -- Soldiers were fighting off opposing forces one minute and the next they were performing either emergency procedures or assisting with live surgeries.

"Our unit is very versatile," said Capt. Anthony Rhea, head nurse, Emergency Room, 212th MASH. "We are in a position to respond to a changing battlefield more quickly because of our mobility. For example, when we were in Iraq, the worst sand storm in 40 years hit and we were still able to see patients," he said.

*Capt. Booker King, surgeon, 212th Mobile Army Support Hospital, scrubs-up prior to performing a live hernia procedure as part of the unit's field training exercise at Speichersdorf, Germany.*







*Opposing Forces/Iraqi citizens' Pvt. Roberto Mendez, patient administration specialist, 30th Med. Bde. and Spec. Joshua Dean, combat medic, 30th Med. Bde., attempt to infiltrate the MASH compound as Spec. Katie Smith, medic, 212th MASH, stands ready during the unit's "train as we fight" field training exercise at Speichersdorf, Germany.*

*(Inset) Using the Deployable Instrumental Systems in Europe vest, or DISE, a Global Positioning System device that tracks soldiers, weaponry and vehicles during training, a computer monitor shows Opposing Forces (pink) converge on 212th Mobile Army Support Hospital soldiers (blue).*



*Opposing Forces/Iraqi citizens' Staff Sgt. Vanessa Pope, medic, 30th Medical Brigade, watches as her "brother," Spec. Juan Vargas, medical specialist, is carried away by 212th MASH Emergency Room Nurses 1st Lt. Ruben Vasquez and 2nd Lt. Stephen Schmelter. Vargas was shot while attempting to infiltrate the MASH compound during the unit's "train as we fight" field training exercise at Speichersdorf, Germany.*

"We can adjust to anything," said Maj. Lillian Cardona, nurse officer in charge, 212th MASH. "This training is so realistic, from the convoy, sleep deprivation, to supplies - it's real. We learned just what we were made of while down-range. Normally our supplies are good for 32 procedures, but we were able to perform 102 procedures without being supplied. Our supply routes were being cut-off and ambushed so our nurses were very diligent with the supplies. We just did it right, and that's how we're training - we're doing it right," Cardona said proudly.

One adjustment 212th MASH will undergo is scheduled for Oct. 16, 2006, when the MASH unit will transition to a Combat Support Hospital.

"A CSH unit brings more capability to the battlefield with two 12-bed intensive care units, three intermediate care wards with 20 beds each," Bitterman said. "In addition, the CSH brings 100 more personnel with additional medical specialties.

"An 84-bed CSH unit can push forward 100 percent and has surgical capabilities in addition to other capabilities such as primary care, rehabilitation, family practice and intermediate care," he said.

The bottom line, according to Bitterman, is "we are here to support "Victory" Corps and U.S. Army, Europe as its expeditionary hospital - to move forward to provide resuscitation services, and that's exactly what we are here to do."

The 212th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital has a long and distinguished history. Dating back to the First World War, it has served U.S. combat forces on the fields of battle from Europe to Asia. Constituted on December 28, 1917 and assigned duty with the National Army as Evacuation Hospital No. 12, the unit saw action its first World War I action in St. Mihiel, France, where it was awarded its first campaign streamer. To date, "the last MASH standing" has 28 battle streamers and is the most decorated combat hospital in the U.S. Army.



# TRANS TROOPS FIRE-UP RANGE

Story and Photos by Mindy Anderson



*Staff Sgt. Larnel Norman, NCOIC, 39th Transportation Battalion (MC), scans the area for the enemy during Operation Lightning Fury, a convoy live fire training exercise, at Grafenwoehr Training Area Dec. 9, 2004*

“For a unit that does this only once a year, we were **cohesive**, well **rehearsed**, and **performed** our actions as dictated by doctrine and our rehearsals. -Capt. Brian L. Smith, commander, HHD, 39th Trans. Bn. (MC)



Soldiers from 39th Transportation Battalion (Movement Control) blazed through Range 211 during Operation Lightning Fury, a convoy live fire training exercise, at Grafenwoehr Training Area Dec. 9 to prepare for deployment.

The transportation battalion normally trains only once per year.

"We were cohesive, well rehearsed, and performed our actions as dictated by doctrine and our rehearsals," said Capt. Brian Smith, commander, Headquarters Detachment, 39th Trans. Bn. (MC). "There are always things to improve upon, but we were given high accolades for our performance, and if needed, we would be ready to deploy tomorrow," he said emphatically.

Normally, an HHD would either participate in the maneuver portion of training, or would provide logistical support.

"We provided both logistical and maneuver support in a manner of excellence for the 39th and 14th Movement Control Battalions," Smith said. "This represents how well oiled and tight this company is."

The training was important for the transportation battalion because most of the Soldiers have not seen this type of training before; it is usually geared more for combat arms units.

In today's non-linear, 360 degree battlefield, Combat Service Support units are finding themselves in unfamiliar territory, said Sgt. 1st Class Shelley J. Bonner, logistics noncommissioned officer in charge, 39th Trans. Bn. (MC). "There are no more 'front lines' for us to serve

behind, there are many different engagements and areas of conflict, and we may find ourselves without outside support for security.

"We have to learn to be more lethal as well as maintain proficiency in our everyday jobs. We can't become complacent that we are only there for support...we may also have to be the aggressor," Bonner said.

Staff Sgt. Larnel Norman, intelligence NCOIC, 39th Trans. Bn. (MC), adds that until recently, 39th Trans. Bn. Soldiers have not been expected to execute this level of combat techniques in the field.

"This training gave the Soldiers a better understanding that at any given time, if deployed to a hostile environment, they could accomplish their mission and protect their unit against various threats," Norman said. "It also provides Soldiers and unit commanders the tools they may need to respond to various situations on the battlefield supporting that this is not just skills that combat arms soldiers need to survive but skills needed for all Soldiers, regardless of their military occupation," he said.

Operation Lightning Fury not only afforded Soldiers the opportunity to train as they never have, it reinforced unit cohesiveness.

"Training like this is so important because it gives us the chance to work together as a team in a simulated combat environment while helping us prepare for real-world combat situations if we have to deploy," said Sgt. Talisha Coleman, HHD, 39th Trans. Bn. (MC).

Observer/Controller SFC Bertram Denson, Grafenwoehr Training Area, believes that all training is positive

and important.

"Each and every soldier, regardless of rank, who come through these lanes have doubts and questions," Denson said. "We [O/Cs] have a code that we go by -- 'no Soldier will leave training with the doubts and questions they arrived with.'"

To ensure this, O/Cs conduct risk assessments and briefings prior to conducting training, and after action reviews throughout to help the unit and individual Soldier with their areas of weakness. Units are then sent back down range after the AAR and rehearsals (if needed) to complete the mission, Denson said.

We always make safety a big issue, and 39th Trans. Bn. units and leaders on the ground really enforced safety, Denson said.

"The O/C's were very knowledgeable and professional, as always" Bonner said. "I personally appreciated the up-front and honest feedback we received during the hotwashes and AARs. I also appreciated them allowing us to look at ourselves internally so we could discover our own mistakes."

Bonner added that the O/Cs provided suggestions and allowed them to put their own stop-gaps in place so they could receive the best training possible.

Regarding safety, Bonner said, "all measures were put in place to set them up for success. There was never a question of something being safe. Bottom line was if it appeared not to be safe, it was fixed before the first truck was started."

"It was a pleasure to work with such a professional O/C team," he said.



▲Capt. Brian Smith, commander, HHD, 39th Transportation Battalion (MC), talks through AAR comments following dry run and provides guidance prior to the live fire iteration on Range 211 during Operation Lightning Fury, a convoy live fire training exercise, at Grafenwoehr Training Area Dec. 9.

◀Ammo shells fly everywhere as Staff Sgt. Larnel Norman destroys targets on Range 211 during Operation Lightning Fury.

"We feel confident we can defend ourselves effectively because of the superior training provided by the 7th ATC and especially our O/Cs.

-Sgt. 1st Class Shelley J. Bonner, logistics noncommissioned officer in charge, 39th Trans. Bn. (MC)





<Staff Sgt. Lamel Norman zooms-in and destroys targets with his M-249 on Range 211 during Operation Lightning Fury, a convoy live fire training exercise, at Grafenwoehr Training Area Dec. 9.



^Soldiers from HHD, 39th Transportation Battalion (MC) establishes a helicopter landing zone to evacuate a casualty inflicted by a roadside Improvised Explosive Device during convoy live fire training at Range 211 at Grafenwoehr Training Area Dec. 9.



^Sgt. 1st Class Bertram Denson, observer/controller, 7th Army Training Command, checks Staff Sgt. Lamel Norman's M-249 to ensure it is cleared prior to leaving Range 211 during Operation Lightning Fury, a convoy live fire training exercise, at Grafenwoehr Training Area Dec. 9.

“WE CONTINUE TO IMPLEMENT THESE DRILLS IN OUR SERGEANT’S TIME TRAINING AND DURING ALERT ROLLOUTS.

THE IDEA IS TO MAINTAIN PROFICIENCY INSTEAD OF CRAMMING FOR THE FINAL EXAM.

-Capt. Brian L. Smith, commander, HHD, 39th Trans. Bn. (MC)





# FOCUSED

## down range

Soldiers of the Southern European Task Force and other members of the future Combined Joint Task Force-76, trained for their upcoming deployment to Afghanistan during a recent mission rehearsal exercise at the 7th Army Training Command's Expeditionary Training Center.

The mission rehearsal exercise, Unified Endeavor, involved Soldiers from numerous organizations from around the U.S. military, including reserve units and NATO partners.

"The training simulation is provided to the Southern European Task Force in a partnership between the 7th ATC, USAREUR units, and the Joint Forces Command; and that partnership together is providing the simulation architecture for the exercise," said Lt. Col. Mark Eastman, director of simulations, 7th ATC.

"Unified Endeavor is just one of the many recent mission rehearsal exercises Joint Forces Command has been involved in," said Tony Billings, spokesperson, USJFCOM,

^Targets can be seen on range on the Grafenwoehr Training Area, through the barrel of a M119A2, 105mm howitzer. Soldiers of Btry. D, 319th FA 173rd Abn. Bde. were at the range practicing gunnery skills in preparation for a deployment to Afghanistan in February.

>Sgt. 1st Class Vilsmeier, section chief, Btry. D, 319th FA, 173rd Abn. Bde., uses a laser rangefinder to aim a M119A2, 105mm howitzer, at a range on the Grafenwoehr Training Area, Jan. 13.

Story and Photos by Jason Austin





"Unified Endeavor is just one of the many recent mission rehearsal exercises Joint Forces Command has been involved in," said Tony Billings, spokesperson, USJFCOM, based in Norfolk, Va. "U.S. Joint Forces Command is really a support organization. The Soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines from those joint organizations we go out to train are really the deciding factor as to whether or not these things are successful."

The MRX prepares the task force headquarters staff for the responsibility of the mission in Afghanistan.

"We go out into the field, we look at what the best practices are, we provide advice, we come back and we translate those best practices to the units who are about to go," Billings said. "Our objective is to make the mission rehearsal exercise as realistic as the actual situation, and thereby, we create a seamless transition from one command to the next."

SETAF relies on many resources to train for a seamless transition.

"We've been receiving a lot of help from the

>The Joint Operations Center is the central focus of all training during the Unified Endeavor mission rehearsal. The training simulation is provided to SETAF in a partnership between the Expeditionary Training Center, USAREUR units, and the Joint Forces Command; and that partnership together is providing the simulation architecture for the exercise.



## SETAF Soldiers train for upcoming deployment



The muzzle flash of a M119A2, 105mm howitzer, can be seen before the round exits the barrel of a howitzer fired by members of Btry. D, 319th FA, 173rd Abn. Bde., at Grafenwoehr Training Area, Jan. 13. The battery was refreshing some skills in preparation for a deployment to Afghanistan in February.



## SETAF Soldiers train for upcoming deployment



*ASpec. Wesley Spaulding, AFATADS Operator, Headquarters and Support Company, Southern European Task Force, zeroes his M16 rifle at a Range on the Grafenwoehr Training Area, Jan. 13. The Soldiers of SETAF were training in preparation for a deployment to Afghanistan in February.*

Joint Forces Command," said Command Sgt. Maj. Iuniasolua Savusa, command sergeant major, SETAF. "Along with that, we also have staff officers and commanders from the current JTF and the 25th Infantry, who have come here and provided updates on how they are currently doing business in country.

SETAF is not a divisional unit. It's a two-star headquarters comprised from units around the Army. Collectively these parts along with servicemembers from other branches of the U.S. Military and other NATO personnel form CJTF-76, said Savusa.

"This is the last chance for me to talk to all my senior NCOs and make sure they have the right guidance to get the Soldiers in the final stage of preparedness," Savusa said.

Many SETAF Soldiers not participating in the MRX were also at Grafenwoehr to practice other skills and gear up for their deployment.

"These Soldiers have been in training for the past year now and they are being well led by our NCOs, veterans themselves," Savusa said. "Some of the Soldiers are veterans themselves from previous deployments to Afghanistan,

*A Soldier from HHC, 1st Bn., 508th Inf. Rgt., fires an AT-4, anti-tank round, at a range on the Grafenwoehr Training Area, Jan. 13. The Soldiers of HHC, 1st Bn., 508th Inf. Rgt., were training with Alpha Company, 1st Bn., 508th Inf. Rgt., in preparation for a deployment to Afghanistan in February.*



## SETAF Soldiers train for upcoming deployment



AA 105mm round exits the barrel of a M119A2, 105mm howitzer, fired by members of Btry.D, 319th FA 173rd Abn. Bde, at Grafenwoehr Training Area, Jan. 13.

<Capt. Kelvin Artis, a Marine assigned to U.S. European Command, works in the Joint Operations Center. CJTF-76 is not a divisional unit. It's a two-star headquarters comprised of units around the Army. Collectively these parts along with servicemembers from other branches of the U.S. Military and other NATO personnel form CJTF-76.

some from Iraq, and they understand. So there is a focus when you go out there and watch them train. They're all about business. They are honing and trying perfect their skills on how to take care of themselves, and also to seek out and destroy the enemy."

With training being so intense for these Soldiers, many of whom have been deployed for war or training for most of the last two years, some skeptics may question the Soldier's willingness to deploy, but not Savusa.

"I think whatever you throw at these guys; they are willing to do it. And they are getting better at it everyday," Savusa said. "You take care of these guys the way you're supposed to, make sure they are trained properly prior to deployment and also take care of their families, ... and the Soldier will be willing to do anything for you."

Despite having been to Iraq and other places, the

Soldiers realize the two theaters of operations are different. "It's going to be different," said Staff Sgt. Rodderic Johnson, section chief, 319th Field Artillery, 173rd Airborne Brigade, who had just completed a M119A2, 105mm howitzer, range with his team. "When we went (to Iraq) we started off going in when the war started. Going to Afghanistan will be different, everything is already stabilized, and we're just going in and doing our job."

Johnson alluded to the need for training, but hopes peace allows him not to use the skills he is refining in himself and his Soldiers. "You don't know what is going to happen, so, just go ahead and get the training done. Hopefully we won't have to use this (howitzer)."

(Austin is a public affairs specialist with the Office of the Chief of Public Affairs, Heidelberg, Germany.)



# HOT SHOTS

*Down Range*

Two Observer Controller teams from the Combat Maneuver Training Center, Hohenfels, Germany, just returned from a nine-month deployment down range. The O/Cs spent the last nine months training two Iraqi Army Battalions at Camp Caldwell, Iraq.

The O/Cs were able to give much of the training that is provided at CMTC to the Iraqi forces. At CMTC, it's mainly coaching and advising. Down range, it was more hands-on, high impact training to train the Iraqi Soldiers to be able to train themselves.

Training Soldiers in Iraq is currently one of the main missions of the U.S. Army, said Maj. Pete Fedak, commander, Timberwolves O/C team. He said that if we want to get the Iraqis moving in the right direction, the only way to do that is passing security to the Iraqi people. He added that until they are in the position to run the country themselves, we will have to be there to assist them.

Fedak reported that one of the biggest impacts of their mission is simply showing them that someone cares about their welfare and their ability to defend their country.

One team member reported that the Iraqis were extremely pleasant and definitely wanted them to be there. They learned beyond the teams' expectations and performed magnificently.



Sgt. 1st Class Richard Smith, Timberwolves O/C, CMTC, Hohenfels, Germany, tasks and assists the 6th Iraqi Army Battalion in destruction of excess and unserviceable ammo at Ammo Bunker in Camp Ashraf, Bald, Iraq.



O/Cs oversee 6th Iraqi Army Battalion Soldiers on the PKC machine gun range at Kirkush Military Training Base.

## O/Cs train Iraqis to train themselves



Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Gleason, Timberwolves O/C, CMTC, Hohenfels, Germany, advises 2nd Company, 6th Iraqi Army Battalion, on how to conduct a combat patrol with the task of securing a town to allow Iraqi troops to gain intelligence on potential anti-Iraqi personnel and equipment.



Sgt. 1st Class Michael Kingsbury, Timberwolves O/C, CMTC, Hohenfels, Germany, with interpreter, Mohammed, conducts an AAR with 4th Company, 6th Iraqi Army Battalion, after a day of combat missions.

**To be considered,** forward your high resolution (5"x 7" at 300 dpi) images with full credit and outline information, including full name, rank and duty station. Name all identifiable people within the photo and include important information about what is happening, where the photo was taken and the date.

Those with digital photo capability can send attached .jpg files to: [minervaj.anderson@us.army.mil](mailto:minervaj.anderson@us.army.mil)

Mail your submissions to:  
Mindy Anderson  
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Unit 2B130, APO, AE 09114

For HOT SHOT slide show, go to [www.7atc.army.mil](http://www.7atc.army.mil), for fresh images of your fellow Soldiers in action.



# HOT SHOTS

Historical

Photos provided by Gerald Morgenstern

Prisoners of war pick-up food supplies for the camp at a local bakery in 1914. POWs were put to work on upgrading the training area. Drainage work, improvement of roads and tree cutting required a large work force.



The Prisoner of War Cemetery. One of the French prisoners, the sculptor Professor Stoll, created the cemetery's memorial of a dying Soldier. It was transferred to France in 1928.



Grafenwoehr Training Area turns 95 on June 30, 2005. The training area also celebrates 60 years of German/American friendship, and the 50th year anniversary of the formation of the German Army.



Grafenwoehr Post, 1909-1915. Officers' quarters and troop barracks were built in the Franconian architectural style. Barracks were arranged in blocks that housed a battalion and provided for a kitchen with two mess halls.

In 1926, President Paul von Hindenburg, right rear in the car, inspects troops and training area. In 1925, the former Field Marshal, von Hindenburg, was elected Germany's head of state. On January 30, 1933, he appointed Adolf Hitler as Chancellor. When von Hindenburg died in 1934, Hitler combined the chancellery and presidency and became Commander in Chief of the German Armed Forces.



Adolph Hitler visits Grafenwoehr June 24, 1938, to inspect the bunker project. After assuming power in 1933, Hitler rejected the Treaty of Versailles, directed a general draft and began a massive military build-up which immediately impacted the training area.





tell me

and I'll forget;



show me

and I may remember;



involve me

and I'll understand.

Command takes *about face* from 'typical' safety briefing, opts to inform soldiers with hands-on training

Story and Photos by Mindy Anderson

The Expeditionary Training Command pulled out all the stops recently during a day-long Winter Safety Campaign Safety Day with various high impact training events taking place simultaneously at the Tower Theatre, Grafenwoehr Army Airfield, and Graf Field House.

Brig. Gen. Mark Hertling, commanding general, 7th ATC, opened the day's events by addressing the more than 500 Soldiers and civilians in attendance. "I'm a firm believer that if you see it, touch it, feel it, taste it, smell it, the information will stick," Hertling said. "So, we're going to get away from the typical briefing and allow hands-on training."

The commanding general stressed that we are a training organization, and this is part of our "Train to Win" approach.

"There have been seven DUIs within this command in a month – so far none have killed anyone, but their careers are ruined," Hertling said. "The Army by design is a young organization, so we have to show them how to be careful."

And show them, they did. Soldiers and civilians split into three groups rotating between three stations –everything from DUI prevention, suicide prevention, local road hazards, Winter driving orientation, to crash simulation (car drop), seat belt convincer, accident simulator, home fire prevention, cold-weather injury prevention and even web-based risk assessment tools.

"General [B.B.] Bell, [U.S. Army, Europe, commander] has a winter and summer safety campaign and this is part of that," said Steve Fant, safety director, 7th ATC. "What's different is a part of the campaign is training a dozen safety related items such as winter driving, POV safety, fire safety and many other topics.

"Brig. Gen. Hertling didn't want us to go through the motions and give canned or standard briefings where people are falling asleep – he wanted hands-on training to keep Soldiers' interest, make them sit-up and think and really impact their lives," Fant said.

As evidenced by the enthusiasm and participation of both Soldiers and civilians, the approach was a success.

"This is some of the best fire safety training I have seen since I have been in the Army," said Sgt. Jeremy Collins, mechanic, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 100th Area Support Group. "Soldiers getting to participate and be a part of the training is a change and it allows for more involvement."

Cedric Johnson, maintenance specialist, Krystal Inn Hotel, Vilseck, experienced the seat belt convincer and seemed to quite "convinced" afterwards.

"It jarred and slammed me so much more than I had thought it would because it was only going seven-and-a-half miles per hour," he said. "Beforehand when the guy said how fast it would be going, I thought it would be about like how it feels when you bump into your garage, but it was a big jolt -- alot bigger than I ever imagined it would be.

"I agree with [Brig. Gen. Hertling] in that experiencing this hands-on really gave me a better idea of how it feels and what can happen in these situations. What is it everyone always says? 'It will never happen to me,'" Johnson said.

*do more than*

**THINK SAFE**

*Make the connection*

*it's time to*

**BE SAFE**



# WHAT'S HIGH IMPACT TRAINING?

Most soldiers and DA civilians must attend many different mandatory training courses each year. Often when someone attends one of these courses, their foremost thought is to just complete it quickly and "check the block" to fulfill the requirement. A lot of times people will leave these training

sessions (typically via briefing or lecture) and forget much of the information they were given. Although course requirements have been met, the goal to raise awareness and teach simply has not been met.

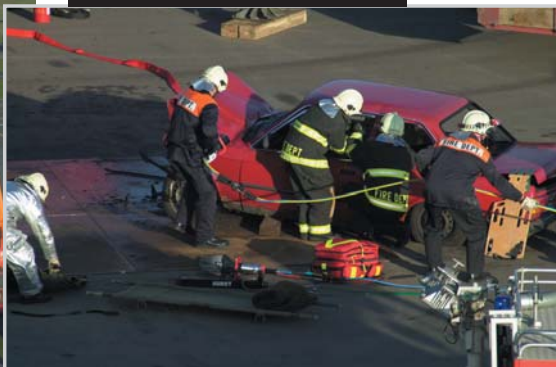
The Expeditionary Training Center has dramatically changed its training philosophy.

To ensure that more dynamic training is conducted within ETC, the command now utilizes high impact training whenever possible. **High Impact training is training that gets people involved**, makes people participate, leverages creativity and innovation, and that changes attitudes - instead of just "checking the block".

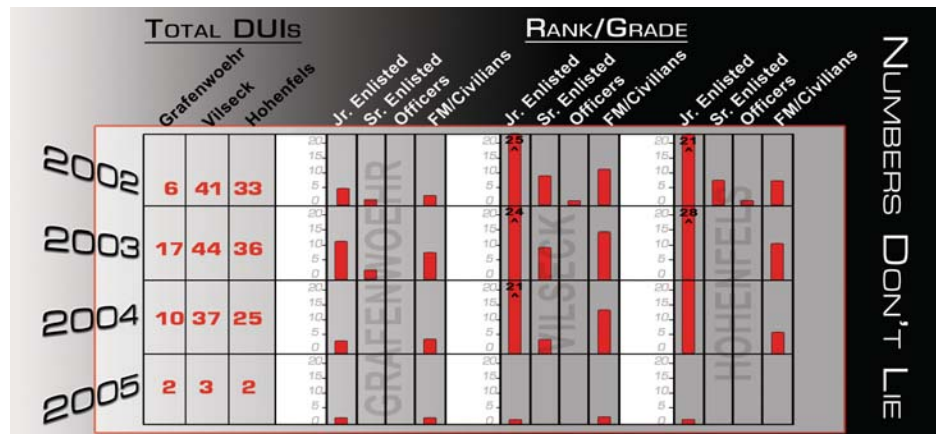
A car, with a dummy as passenger, is dropped to simulate the damage sustained in a vehicle collision.



Grafenwoehr Training Area Fire Department personnel work to extract a dummy from a vehicle that was dropped from a crane to simulate a vehicular accident.



A Grafenwoehr Training Area fireman demonstrates the danger of using water to extinguish a kitchen grease fire. The fiery demonstration was just one of the highly visual, hands-on training events making up the Grafenwoehr Winter Safety Campaign Safety Day.



SOURCE 7th ATC Provost Marshal

Graphic by Mindy Anderson

## DUI costs stripes, salary, priceless reputation

Story by Airman 1st Class Jeremy Spengler

I am writing this, not as a supervisor telling one of his Airmen not to drink and drive, but as an Airman trying to help another Airman. On Feb. 22, I was all packed up ready to go to sunny Charleston, N.C., for a two-week TDY when a "friend" of mine called and asked if I wanted to go out and have a few drinks before I drove to the airport.

We went out and I decided since I was going to drive I wouldn't drink "much" - mistake number one. I was out for five hours before I decided I needed to leave. At this point I only had five beers, so I told myself I was OK to drive - mistake number two. After I had dropped everybody off, I was on my way home when I saw the lights of the police van.

All the scenarios that I imagined never happened exactly like the real one. The police pulled me over and gave me a breathalyzer test. I was taken in to the station where I was met by a German doctor who took my blood. Then I had to sit there and wait for the military cops to arrive. A lot of things went through my mind as I waited.

Finally, the military cops arrived and took me to Vogelweh where I was given another breathalyzer and this time a field sobriety test. I was put

in a little room where I waited again, this time for my first sergeant and supervisor. When the shirt arrived I knew that it was only the beginning of my pain.

During the next few days, I met people I hoped I would never have to meet as a result of this situation. Everybody from the wing commander, my supervisor and even the people I work with everyday had something to say to me. Believe me, most of it was not words of encouragement I was so used to hearing. I started to realize what it was I had really done. Not only did I put somebody else's life in danger, but I put my own in danger. Not only did I fail my co-workers - the ones who trust me with their lives everyday - but I failed my family, my squadron and my commander. But over everything else, I failed myself. It was the worst emotional pain and that to me was punishment enough. But it was only beginning.

For the next couple of weeks, I was in and out of offices trying to explain what had really happened. Just as I started to climb out of my emotional hole and started getting over my misstep, I found out what my stupid mistake would really cost me.

After everything was said and done,

I came out of my commander's office with a shadow on my sleeve where my stripes used to be.

**I was now a four and a half year airman first class with 21 days extra duty, an Article 15 and an Unfavorable Information File.** This may not seem like much of a punishment, but I had already tested for staff sergeant and was a month away from testing again. After reducing my rank to airman first class, I took a pay decrease of \$300 per month. I was no longer authorized to live off base so I had to move into the dorms. I lost my Overseas Housing Allowance and Basic Allowance for Subsistence. My Cost of Living Allowance dropped in half. Also, with a suspended license, I couldn't drive for a year and had to rely on my friends for rides.

Everything I was so used to having and worked so hard to get was taken away by one stupid mistake - one that I made. There are many options the Air Force offers to prevent DUIs, most of which don't cost a dime. Instead, I chose the most expensive option - one I will be paying for years to come.

(Spengler is attached to the 723rd Air Mobility Squadron, Ramstein AB, Germany.)



# Unit back in ACTION

The year: 1943. The place: the Aleutian Islands. The mission: to help drive out Japanese forces. The unit: 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment.

Upon completing that mission, this unit of battle-tested infantrymen was never used again.

Fast forward to about 1990 and you'll find the unit, now the opposing force for the Combat Maneuver Training Center in Hohenfels, providing mission rehearsal training for units deploying to Afghanistan and Iraq.

Present day ... about 100 Soldiers from Company A, of the unit, was sent to Afghanistan in September for a three-month deployment to provide support and security for that country's presidential election.

Company A has answered the question of whether an OPFOR unit can perform the mission of a modernized American infantry company.

According to Capt. Jacob Larkowich, company commander, "The guys have performed superbly. Although we've got guys who are not task organized as a (traditional infantry company), we were still able to transition to a (smaller version) of a motorized infantry company.

"We've proven we can do just about anything. We've gone from driving simulated BMPs to driving High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled

Vehicles," he said. "We've gone from not having medics (assigned to us) and integrated a team of medics on this deployment and we went from working with just a platoon of guys to a host of other nations.

"We've shown everyone that the OPFOR can transition and do something else," said Larkowich.

Although their primary mission in Hohenfels is to prepare other units for what they might experience on a deployment to Iraq or Afghanistan, they continue to train on their basic soldiering skills.

"The thought that we couldn't do the mission is stereotypical of 1st Bn., 4th Inf. Regt.," said Sgt. 1st Class James Smith, A Co. operations NCO. "Everyone believes we just train for OPFOR missions, but we do (have to) train for when (our Soldiers) PCS. They are going to go to a different unit and have to use those basic Soldier skills that if I don't train them in then (the Soldiers) are useless (to the Army). Even though we have an OPFOR mission we do try to keep it as realistic to normal every day actions as possible."

Although their primary mission is to play the role of the enemy, it doesn't take away from the fact that they are infantrymen first. Their skills as an infantryman are not diminished, but being able to experience missions on both sides of the road makes for a more rounded Soldier.

"I'd say our Soldier skills are just as good as any other unit that is out there," said Smith. "We have seen the Soldiering from both sides, OPFOR and BLUFOR. We tend to know how someone is going to react even before we go into that mission."

Knowing how someone is going to react may have helped them prepare for their mission on this deployment. They've had to be the "enemy" for the American Soldier in Hohenfels, so now they have an idea of what the enemy might do and they have an idea of what to look for because

they've been on both sides of the line.

In preparing units for OIF and OEF missions, "we basically focus on guerilla tactics, ambushes and things like that," said 1st Sgt. Lloyd Compton, A Co. first sergeant. "You get to think outside the box while you are (in Afghanistan) and you get to think like the enemy would and you know what to look for.

"Looking for anything out of the ordinary or looking for negative reactions to the International Security Assistance Force has been part of our mission here," he said.

"Along with providing force protection patrols in the South and West areas of

the Kabul province, we are also looking for improvised explosive devices, unexploded ordnance or unknown mine fields and marking them accordingly."

Performing these types of missions day in and day out might prove monotonous and complacency can become a Soldier's worst enemy.

"Sometimes doing the same missions over and over again can get old," said Compton, "but doing the force protection patrols helps to break the monotony ... you can't (afford to) get complacent. We switch up the patrols to where the platoons are doing (a variety of missions) so they aren't seeing the same things over and over again."

"It's difficult to battle the complacency," said Larkowich. "No commander or Soldier wants to go out on a mission and get shot, especially if the other guy is a good shot, (however) on the other hand, you struggle when you don't get shot at ... guys get complacent.

"We've battled it quite well by changing the duration of patrols, how we do the patrols and the down time for

**"We went from working with just a platoon of guys to a host of other nations."**

—Capt. Jacob Larkowich



Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Pickett

With HMMWVs in tow, a C-17 transports 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment Soldiers to Afghanistan in September for a three-month deployment to provide support and security for that country's presidential election. (Note the 7th Army patch!)

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Harvey Cole

...AFTER 60 YEARS



# UNIT back in ACTION

for Soldiers," he said.

Besides complacency, another challenge was this American unit was under the command of NATO.

"One of the hardest issues we have had to contend with was the 22 different nations that are involved with ISAF," said Smith. "One concern with the other countries was that we'd be overly aggressive and ruin the report they had established with the locals and with the way they do business."

In spite of the concerns, the ability of all forces involved to cooperate on this mission has proved seamless.

"One of the most important things we were able to do was interact and integrate with NATO," said Larkowich. "For my Soldiers to receive the opportunity to train with and work with soldiers from other nations and to see how very similarly we all operate, it showed us that basically, throughout the military, things are generally the same."

"The learning curve and working together hasn't been that big of an obstacle. The basic military procedures are identical. The deputy commander of the Multi-National Force

Battalion and (other officers in the foreign militaries) went to the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College in Kansas," said Larkowich.

"Coming to a mission of this nature was not the way I thought it would be," said Smith. "I thought we would see a little more action ... not necessarily combat, but more aggressiveness from the locals toward us. That's the biggest problem being down here as you look around you — don't really know who your enemy is."

"We talk with the leaders of the villages to see what their needs are ... to ensure they have water and electricity to see if their villages are safe and that there are no outsiders come in and causing disruptions. We coordinate with them and find out what they need ... we do a lot of Civilian and Military Cooperation projects," he said.

"A lot of the people are thankful that we are here. For the most part people in general are good people; however, they tend to follow the person with the (biggest gun.)"

"(The key to success in Afghanistan is the) 15-year-old and younger generation," according to Smith. "The older people are set in their ways. They've lived their lives and seen wars that we can only imagine and you aren't (really) going to change them. If you can show the kids that we can rebuild and there is a better way of life, they'll grow older (and) learn to appreciate it."

Given the quantity of success stories from this unit, the country's success seems assured.

Although this unit has been dormant for some time when it comes to the deployment front today's Soldier can rest in the knowledge that they've been able to positively add to the legacy started some 60 years ago.

(Cole is assigned to the Office of the Chief of Public Affairs, Heidelberg, Germany.)

*Sgt. Chris Gaede, 1st platoon, 3rd Squad leader for Company A, 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, talks with some of the residents in a village in the southern Kabul province as part of the units force protection patrol missions in Afghanistan.*

*(Inset) Members of the opposing force for the Combat Maneuver Training Center in Hohenfels takes time to pose for a group picture. Company A, 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, just returned from a three-month deployment to provide support and security for Afghanistan's presidential election.*

*Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Harvey Cole, NCOIC, Office of the Chief of Public Affairs, Heidelberg, Germany*





*Why?*

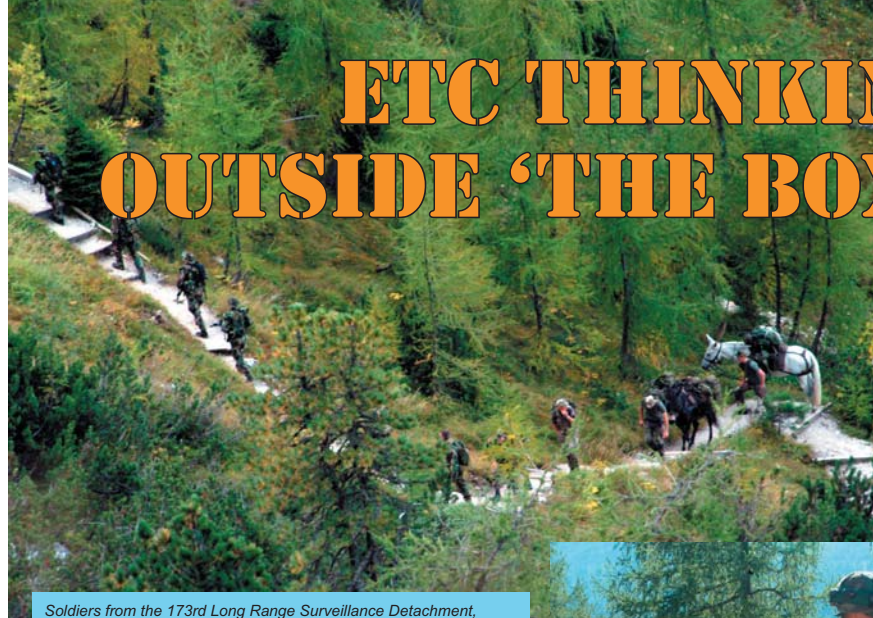
Using terrain at the German Army Mountain Training Center, in the Bavarian Alps, the Expeditionary Training Center provided elements of SETAF with a realistic and challenging environment that closely replicated high altitude terrain in Afghanistan. This and other training in November 2004 used terrain and facilities at German Army training areas and the Combat Maneuver Training Center, Hohenfels, to closely replicate terrain and conditions SETAF will face during deployment.



## HIGH ALTITUDE TRAINING

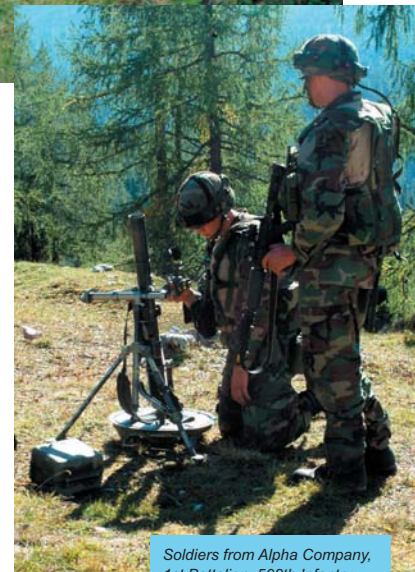
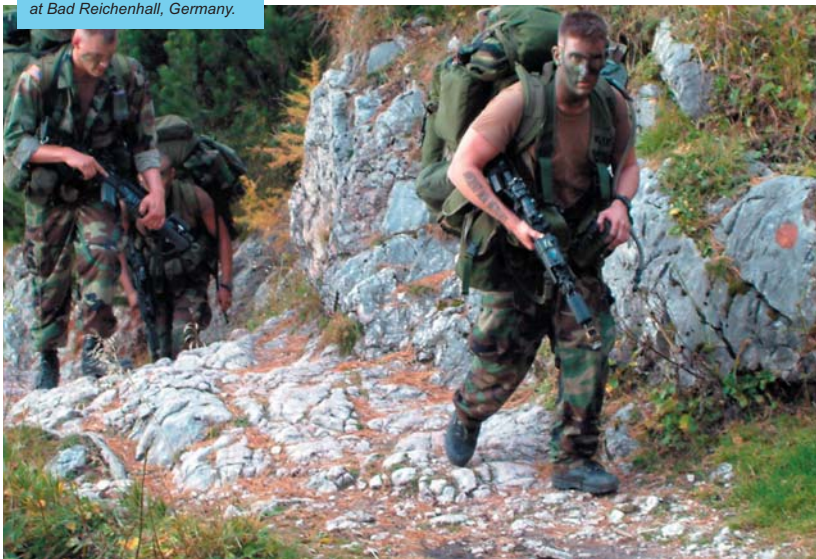
Two UH-60's prepare to land during mountain training at Bad Reichenhall, Germany recently.

## ETC 'THINKIN' OUTSIDE 'THE BOX'

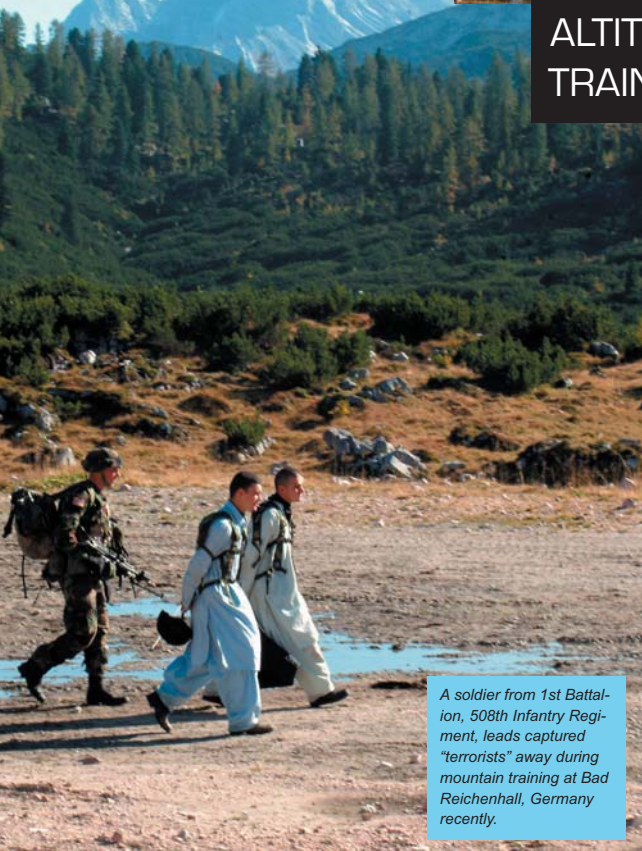


Soldiers from the 173rd Long Range Surveillance Detachment, Team 6, along with German guides and mules, ascend a steep trail during mountain training at Bad Reichenhall, Germany recently.

Soldiers from the 173rd Long Range Surveillance Detachment, Team 1, near the completion of a three hour uphill ruck march during mountain training at Bad Reichenhall, Germany.



Soldiers from Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 508th Infantry Regiment, sight in a mortar during mountain training at Bad Reichenhall, Germany recently.



A soldier from 1st Battalion, 508th Infantry Regiment, leads captured "terrorists" away during mountain training at Bad Reichenhall, Germany recently.

Photos by Spec. Billy G. Cargile, VIPERS Hohenfels, Germany



# Warriors focus on Afghanistan

Sgt. Tyion Stanley, 92nd Military Police Company's 4th Platoon, Darmstadt, Germany, checks a prisoner (roleplayed by Pfc. James Black of the 615th Military Police Company) under U.S. control for concealed weapons during detention training in Hohenfels, Germany, Dec. 8. Members of the 92nd MPs are slated to deploy to Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom in spring of 2005.

Photo by Karl Weisel, 104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office, Hanau, Germany



Military Police so dominated the show at Hohenfels in early December that infantry, armor and artillery Soldiers couldn't get arrested if they wanted to. For the first time in Army history, MPs commandeered the **Combat Maneuver Training Center** from Nov. 30 to Dec. 14 for Warrior Focus, a mission rehearsal exercise for deployment to Afghanistan in 2005.

"It's great to get the opportunity to train as a whole battalion for once," said 1st Lt. Andrea Leaman, 92nd MP Company executive officer. "It's really great to get to see who else is an MP and work with them. We have quite a few Soldiers in the company who've been to Afghanistan or to Iraq. It's also helpful that we've got people who've worked detention centers in Gitmo [Guantanamo Bay Naval Station, Cuba] and Iraq."

The Baumholder-based 92nd MP Company and the Kitzingen-based 212th MP Company wrapped up months of training with platoon- and company-level exercises and qualifications in the most realistic field environment possible, said officials.

"A CMTC rotation with all its resources is entirely online for our battalion, an MP battalion. We absolutely couldn't do this without these resources," said Maj. James Wilson, executive officer of the Hanau-based 709th MP Battalion, which ran the exercise.

MPs from the battalion's 92nd, with Soldiers assigned to Baumholder, Hanau and Darmstadt, and the 212th will deploy along with Company E of the Darmstadt-based 165th Military Intelligence Battalion, whose Soldiers were an integral part of Warrior Focus.

"It's the first time MPs and Military Intelligence are training together," said Capt. Jeremy Kerfoot, 709th MP Battalion adjutant. Senior noncommissioned officers from the 709th's 527th MP Company, based in Giessen, and the 793rd MP Battalion's 615th MP Company, based in Grafenwöhr, rounded out the complement of MPs on hand, serving as controllers, role players and teachers.

"They're the subject experts because they deployed with us in OIF-1 [Operation Iraqi Freedom]," said Kerfoot, who was a platoon leader during the 709th's deployment to Baghdad in 2003. "A lot of the lessons learned are being

initiated here."

Among them is training that reflects a heightened sensitivity to handling detainees, Persons Under U.S. Control as the MPs call them, in the wake of the Abu Ghraib prisoner abuse scandal that broke earlier this year.

"The Army has now emphasized a lot of briefings stressing RoE [Rules of Engagement], how to treat prisoners and all that stuff, and our battalion's done a great job getting those briefings to us," Leaman said.

Warrior Focus put the MPs through the experience of running Camp Vigilant, a tent complex arranged to simulate a working detention facility. Soldiers acted out the entire process of bringing detainees in to be processed, searched and questioned — part of the mission they will find themselves doing in Afghanistan.

**"The CMTC folks actually built this detention facility for us for this exercise," Wilson said. "It's not a standard request, I'm sure."**

"The company goes in and takes over the facility," said Maj. Roger Hedgepeth, S-3 for the 709th MP Battalion. "They train on forced cell moves and battle drill. That's when a prisoner acts up; they go in with shields and helmets and take him to protect the other inmates."

Soldiers also trained on using Military Working Dogs and responding to everything from International Committee of the Red Cross visits to recognizing and responding to MP and interrogator misconduct.

"There are all these scenarios and vignettes programmed in," said Hedgepeth. "We're looking at all these SOPs, down to the Soldier level, to make sure everybody knows what to do. We've replicated all the processing, handling and reporting procedures. One of the key things is linking SOPs and procedures to prevent another Abu Ghraib incident."

Toward that end the MPs trained in concert with the Military Intelligence Soldiers who will deploy with them.

"We're here to work out the interaction," said Capt. Matthew Palmer, commander of Company E, 165th Military Intelligence Battalion. "It's their facility. We have a vested interest to make sure that support is in place. If either mission fails, so does the other. I have a company with a lot of experience doing their job — they know the friction points."



Most of his Soldiers have previous deployment experience, either in the Balkans, Afghanistan or Iraq, he said. "This is a monumental event. It's the first time MPs and intelligence Soldiers have trained together before going downrange on a mission in the Global War on Terrorism."

"We have extensive training for this mission, and coordinating with the MPs is a new twist," said Spec. Andre Walker of 165th MI. "They're excellent to work with, and we're melding together. We have enough training, I think, to execute our mission proficiently. I'm not worried about anything. I love the work I do. It saves lives."

"The situation we're dealing with is different than in the past," said Sgt. Lucas Worthy of the 92nd's 1st Platoon Vipers. "We've reoriented and re-gearred toward that mission. So far everything's running smoothly."

"I think a lot of the changes focus on the RoE, the basic idea that detainees are human beings and should be treated according to the Golden Rule," said Capt. Jamica Powell, commander of the 9th

MP Detachment, which runs the Mannheim Detention Facility. She and her Soldiers were on hand to contribute their expertise to the training.

"Bringing the MPs and MI Soldiers together is key to making that shift work. It's actually a lot better and essential in working out the SOPs. What came out of Abu Ghraib was that they weren't meshing. This gives the 709th the opportunity to work through that. It's just putting it in context of working with foreign nationals. It's keeping it in your mind, switching from the role of combat, combat, combat to safekeeping ... and MPs can do that," Powell said.

Soldiers rotated tasks frequently throughout the two week exercise, said officials.

"They're rotating with someone else, doing another job so they get experience everywhere," said Capt. Clint Munding, intelligence officer with the

709th MP Battalion. "That's a big part of the training, to put together people in a variety of roles. That way we get to train them together

rather than in two separate situations. When they get where they're going they'll know each other, have that working relationship, and there won't be any confusion about whose role is what. We concentrate on what most MPs who are put in a detention facility will never see, but it shows them what could happen and to be prepared."

"It's my first deployment and I'm looking forward to learning my MOS," said Pvt. Andreane Curry, a human resources specialist with the 92nd's Headquarters Platoon. "I like being in the office, but when we come to the field it keeps me up to date and together with everyone else."

"We started off doing MP missions — convoy security, cordon and search missions, QRF [Quick Reaction Force]," said Spec. David Saraiva, of the 92nd's 4th Platoon Crusaders. "I think mostly what I'm learning is detainee operations because it's completely outside my MOS. You pick up more from it when you're working with someone you don't know. It's the first time we've actually

## Warriors focus on Afghanistan



(Above) Soldiers of the 212th Military Police Company converge on a dwelling during cordon and search training in Hohenfels Dec. 8.

Photo by Karl Weisel

(Left) Sgt. John Wilkerson remains vigilant while Pfc. Shawn Pressley and Sgt. Christopher Heiniger aid a "wounded" comrade during cordon and search training at Hohenfels Dec. 8. The 212th MP Company Soldiers were preparing for deployment to Afghanistan in spring 2005.

Photo by David Ruderman



Staff Sgt. Nicanor Mendez (left) and Pvt. Paul Mancino, 212th MP Company, take up cover positions during a cordon and search training session in Hohenfels.

Photo by Karl Weisel



Pfc. Shawn Pressley and Sgt. Christopher Heiniger come to the aid of a "wounded" Pfc. Brian Radar during cordon and search training at Hohenfels Dec. 8. The 212th MP Company Soldiers were preparing for deployment to Afghanistan in spring 2005.

Photo by David Ruderman

Pfc. Nick Chimenti of the 212th Military Company from Kitzingen, Germany, provides cover for his fellow MPs during cordon and search training in Hohenfels Dec. 8. Members of the 212th MPs and 92nd MP Company are slated to deploy to Afghanistan in spring 2005.

Photo by Karl Weisel



Role-playing villagers run from a building as Sgt. Christopher Hooper (left) and Pfc. Nicholas Chimenti of 212th MP Company approach to take out a sniper.

Photo by Karl Weisel



used interpreters. Rock Solid."

"We tell our PUCs: don't speak English with them — work through the interpreter," said Mundinger. "You've got to make the bridge. The gaps that are there; you've got to overcome them. We think we're capturing the essence of what they're going to do."

"The companies flip every five days from running the detention facility to doing area searches," said Hedgepeth. "The area search mission is four platoon lanes and one company lane. On the fifth day they do a company-level cordon and search with all four lanes involved."

In both sets of scenarios, planners and trainers continually monitored the units' performance and adjusted the scripts to challenge Soldiers beyond their comfort zones, introducing additional elements to ratchet up the complexity and unpredictability of the exercises, said officials.

"You should be able to take an MP and put him or her on any mission, except maybe firing tanks," Leaman said.

"From Day 1 to Day 5 they were ecstatic with their ability to function the way they can now," said Wilson. "It was like night and day. By the time they finished they felt they could execute to standard."

"They're excited to be doing that because it's something they don't usually do," said Capt. Ann

Dunscombe, 212th MP Company commander. "Now they're doing cordon and searches, and they're really pumped."

Getting Soldiers into the appropriate mindset, resisting the tendency to go soft on discipline and SOPs, can save their lives, said Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Johnson of 527th MP Company. "Those are the hard line things we're trying to tell them — it's not always going to be easy."

"We've got to make sure they make a link between the training and the reality," Dunscombe said. "They've never realized that these are real people they're dealing with. They're used to running through situations, shooting things up and they have to learn that you just can't go through people's houses throwing their things around — not if you want them to be friendly the next time you come around. I think they understand the task, without bullets."

Watching her Soldiers run through combat operations in a mock Afghan village on the Hohenfels range, Dunscombe said they were both motivated and ready to go.

"They know what they signed up for when they joined the Army, so I think they have a genuine concern for the world and a desire to fight for America. They're excited to do their jobs. They're also scared, and they're

## Warriors focus on Afghanistan

going to miss their families, but I think it's good when you have that level of awareness. They'll have a better chance. Complacency kills."

"I would say the fear, the apprehension, is more of the unknown," Leaman said. "Lots of them are young and never deployed before. It's not that they're scared of dying. It's more like they're wondering what they're going to find there, and can they handle it."

"Leadership, discipline and standards are the key to doing a successful mission — and confidence in their leaders," Wilson said.

"Our sergeants are just excellent. Our platoon never failed on anything because they were there. The team leader or the sergeant is the most important person in the unit," Leaman said.

After wrapping up Warrior Focus, most of the MPs were planning on spending time at home with family and friends, making the most of block leave that will fall around the holidays.

Sometime in the new year they will head to Afghanistan.

Are any of them wishing they'll be the ones to finally capture Osama bin Laden?

"That's the dream, that the 92nd would be the one," said Leaman.

(Ruderman is assigned to the 104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office, Hanau, Germany.)

Warriors  
focus  
on Afghanistan